

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 /097 W

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P R 300550Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9892

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1439

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3841

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, UN, IN, NP, CE, AF

SUBJ: TALK WITH AGHA SHAHI RE PAK CANDIDACY FOR SEAT IN SC

1. AGHA SHAHI ASKED THAT I COME SEE HIM YESTERDAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF TELLING ME THAT PAKISTAN HAD DECIDED TO BE AN ACTIVE CANDIDATE FOR THE ASIAN NON-PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER SEAT FOR 1976-77. HE SAID THE GOP HAD MADE THIS DECISION AFTER IT WAS LEARNED THAT INDIA WAS GOING TO CONTEST FOR THIS SEAT.

2. SHAHI SAID PAKISTAN HAD OCCUPIED THIS SEAT FOR THE 1968-69 SESSION AND HAD NOT MADE ANY EFFORT SINCE THAT TIME AS IT WAS FELT OTHERS SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE. HE SAID PAKISTAN HAD HOPED IRAN WOULD CONTEST FOR THE SEAT THIS TIME BUT IRAN SAID IT WAS NOT REALLY INTERESTED. THE GOP HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD REPORTS THAT SRI LANKA AND NEPAL MIGHT BE INTERESTED, AND THIS AS WELL WOULD HAVE BEEN ALL RIGHT WITH THE GOP. HE SAID
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THIS WAS WHERE THINGS STOOD WITHIN HIS GOVERNMENT UNTIL

INDIA ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTIONS.

3. SHAHI SAID INDIA HAD OCCUPIED THIS SEAT IN THE 1967-68 PERIOD AND AGAIN IN 1972-73. HE SAID IF THEY WERE TO RE-OCCUPY THE SEAT AGAIN IN 1976-77, THIS WOULD MEAN ONLY A TWO YEAR GAP AND WOULD SEEM REALLY NOT FAIR TO THE NORMAL DISTRIBUTION WHICH SHOULD PREVAIL AMONG THE REGION. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE GOP CHANCES SHOULD BE BETTER THAN THOSE OF INDIA'S AS THERE WOULD BE A SIX YEAR GAP SINCE PAKISTAN MEMBERSHIP.

4. THERE MORE COMPELLING REASONS, HOWEVER, WHY PAKISTAN WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE INDIA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THE COMING PERIOD, AS HE FELT THAT PAKISTAN'S VITAL INTERESTS MIGHT BE COMPROMISED. HE REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO THE CURRENT STATE OF PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS AND THE RECENT EFFORT BY KABUL TO INTERNATIONALIZE PAK-AFGHAN TROUBLES. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE APPEAL BY KABUL FOR UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE AS REGARDS ALLEGED REFUGEES, ITS REFUSAL TO HALT HOSTILE PROPAGANDA, ETC. HE SAID IN A MINOR WAY HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES SOMETIMES WONDERED WHETHER A "BANGLADESH SYNDROME" WAS NOT BEGINNING TO APPEAR IN WHICH KABUL WAS TRYING TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE PROBLEM AND COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS WITH OPPOSITION AND NAP ELEMENTS INSIDE PAKISTAN. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS HE FEARED INDIA MIGHT TRY TO FURTHER THESE AIMS THROUGH USE OF HER SECURITY COUNCIL POSITION. HE SAID THERE WAS ALSO A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE INVOLVED, AND THAT IT SEEMED TO PAKISTAN AT LEAST THAT INDIA, IN A SERIES OF EVENTS CULMINATING WITH SIKKIM, HAD HARDLY LIVE UP TO THE SPIRIT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER.

5. SHAHI SAID THAT BHUTTO HAD MADE THE DECISION TO CONTEST FOR THE ASIAN SEAT SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY, BUT NOW THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE THEY WOULD PURSUE IT WITH VIGOR. HE SAID RELUCTANCE OF BHUTTO WAS BASED UPON A DESIRE NOT TO GET CAUGHT IN BIG POWER CONFRONTATIONS WITHIN THE SECURITY COUNCIL,, AND
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PARTICULARLY BETWEEN CHINA AND THE USSR WHICH COULD PUT PAKISTAN IN EXTREMELY AWKWARD POSITIONS. HE SAID BHUTTO HAD FINALLY AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT PAKISTAN'S OWN INTERESTS SHOULD BE PUT FIRST AND THAT THEY WOULD MAKE THE CONTEST AND NOT LEAVE INDIA ALONE WITHOUT COMPETITION. HE REPEATED AGAIN THAT THEY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED IRAN IN THE SEAT. HE SAID THAT IF A STALEMATE DEVELOPED PERHAPS SRI LANKA OR NEPAL WOULD STEP FORWARD, AND THIS

AS WELL WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO THE GOP.

6. I THANKED SHAHI FOR GIVING ME THIS RUN-DOWN ON
PAKISTAN INTENTIONS AND THE RATIONALE THEREFOR, SAYING
IT WOULD BE REPORTED TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES. I THINK
THE INITIATIVE FOR THIS MOVE PROBABLY ORIGINATES WITH
WHAHI, WHO MAKES NO SECRET OF THE FACT THAT THE MOST
INTERESTING PERIOD OF HIS LIFE WAS WHILE SERVING AT THE
UNITED NATIONS, AND WHO STILL FONDLY ASSOCIATES HIMSELF
WITH THAT PARTICULAR WORLD. NOW THAT BHUTTO HAS GIVEN
HIS DECISION, I WOULD EXPECT SHAHI TO STAGE-MANAGE
A RATHER GOOD STRUGGLE ON BEHALF OF PAKISTAN ON THIS
ISSUE.
BYROADE

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